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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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April 13, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – HOMES OF
HOPE GROUP HOMES, CASA ESPERANZA TREATMENT CENTER
AND HOMES OF HOPE #1**

We have completed a review of Casa Esperanza Treatment Center and Homes of Hope #1 Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Homes of Hope Group Homes. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Casa Esperanza Treatment Center and Homes of Hope Group Home are six-bed facilities, which provide care for girls ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Casa Esperanza Treatment Center was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children. There were no children placed in Homes of Hope #1 Group Home. Casa Esperanza Treatment Center is located in the First District. Homes of Hope #1 Group Home is located in the Fifth District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the reviews covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews with two children placed with Casa Esperanza Treatment Center at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

There were no children placed in Homes of Hope #1 Group Home. As a result, the review of the Group Home was limited to a facility inspection.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, Casa Esperanza Treatment Center needs to repair a burner on the kitchen stove and submit each request for psychotropic medication in a timely manner. Homes of Hope #1 Group Home needs to remove mildew from the residents' bathroom.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children's Group Home Ombudsman within 15 business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:dl

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Acting Chief Probation Officer
Sukhwinder S. Gill, Executive Director, Homes of Hope Group Home
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Homes of Hope Group Homes
Casa Esperanza Treatment Center
1568 McLeod Place
Pomona, CA 91768
Phone: (616)-523-2422
License No.: 197804217
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Casa Esperanza Treatment Center (Group Home or Agency) is a large facility located in a residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, the right rear burner on the kitchen stove does not work.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. There are books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendation

- 1. Homes of Hope Group Homes management repair the right rear burner on the kitchen stove.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly report for one resident is current, comprehensive, and appropriately focused on the goals of the NSP. The other resident has not been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

Residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

Residents are attending school. Their records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. Residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. Residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. Residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. Residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for three case files

Comments:

Residents have current court authorizations for psychotropic medications. However, one resident's court authorization request for a medication she continued to receive was submitted to the court several months after the previous authorization had expired. Documentation confirms that the children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

2. Homes of Hope Group Homes management submit court authorization requests in a timely manner.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with most staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their placement workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Homes of Hope Group Homes
Homes of Hope #1
1162 Indian Summer
La Puente, CA 91744
Phone: (626)-961-9088
License No.: 197802023
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

The Homes of Hope #1 Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is a large facility located in a residential community. The Group Home is spacious and comfortable. The Group Home is nicely landscaped and blends well with the other homes on the block. There are no children currently residing in the Group Home.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated. The resident bedrooms are spacious. However, the residents' bathroom had spots of mildew on the walls and ceiling above the bathtub area.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, TVs, and a VCR. There are books and resource materials, including computers with a variety of programs.

The Group Home is currently closed and the supply of food items was transferred to the other facility.

Recommendation

- 1. Homes of Hope Group Homes management remove mildew from the ceiling and walls in the residents' bathroom.**